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(ZNS) A 21-YEAR VETERAN F.B.I. AGENT SAYS THAT THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION INTENTIONALLY AND CONSISTENTLY AVOIDED LEADS WHEN INVESTIGATING POSSIBLE CONSPIRACIES BEHIND THE MURDERS OF PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY AND DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JUNIOR.

FORMER AGENT ARTHUR MURTAGH, A SPECIAL AGENT IN THE F.B.I.'S ATLANTA BUREAU FOR 21 YEARS, SAYS THAT HE PARTICIPATED IN THE KENNEDY AND KING INVESTIGATIONS -- AND THAT HE PERSONALLY SAW (QUOTE) "LEADS BEING WASHED OUT."

THE 52-YEAR-OLD MURTAGH RECALLS THAT HE WAS ASSIGNED TO INVESTIGATE THE ACTIVITIES IN ATLANTA OF JACK RUBY, THE MAN WHO SHOT LEE HARVEY OSWALD TO DEATH IN THE BASEMENT OF THE DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT. ACCORDING TO MURTAGH, HE UNCOVERED EVIDENCE IN ATLANTA WHICH DIRECTLY LINKED RUBY TO RIGHT-WING MEMBERS OF THE CUBAN COMMUNITY.

AS MURTAGH TELLS IT, AFTER HIS REPORTS WERE SUBMITTED, THEY WERE SCREENED AND RE-WRITTEN -- AND IN THE FINAL VERSIONS, ALL REFERENCES TO RUBY'S CUBAN CONNECTIONS WERE DELETED.

MURTAGH, WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE INVESTIGATION OF JAMES EARL RAY'S ACTIVITIES IN ATLANTA IN 1968, SAYS THAT THE SAME PRACTICE OF IGNORING LEADS AND (QUOTE) "WASHING OUT EVIDENCE" OCCURRED AGAIN.

MURTAGH SAYS HE BELIEVES A FULL-SCALE PUBLIC INVESTIGATION INTO THE JOHN KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING CASES WOULD UNCOVER RIGHT-WING CONSPIRACIES BEHIND BOTH OF THEM -- ZODIAC

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